ABSTRACT

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The present invention provides a novel intermediate for efficiently producing a 1β -methylcarbapenem compound for oral administration, and a process for producing the intermediate. That is, the present invention provides a process for producing a novel β -lactam compound represented by general formula (4), the process including allowing a β -lactam compound represented by general formula (5) as a starting material to react with a compound represented by general formula (6) in the presence of a base to obtain a novel β -lactam compound represented by general formula (1), protecting the hydroxyl group, subsequently performing cyclization in the presence of a strong base, allowing the cyclized compound to react with diphenylphosphoryl chloride to obtain a novel β -lactam compound represented by general formula (3), and eliminating the protecting group therefrom.

(In the formulae, R₁ represents a trimethylsilyl group or a
triethylsilyl group; R₂ represents an aryl group or a

heteroaryl group; R₃ represents an alkyl group having 1 to
10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon
atoms; and X represents a halogen atom.)